

# FRAGMENT FOUND IN A SKELETON CASE AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

Behold this ruin, 'twas a skull  
Once of ethereal spirit full;  
This narrow cell was life's retreat,  
This space was thought's mysterious seat;  
What beauties pictures fill'd this spot,  
What dreams of pleasure long forgot;  
No love, no joy, no hope, no fear,  
Has left one trace on record here.  
Beneath this mouldering canopy  
Once shone the bright and busy eye;  
But start not at the dismal void,  
If social love that eye employ'd;  
If with no lawless fire it gleam'd,  
But through the dew of kindness beam'd,  
The eye shall be forever bright,  
When stars, and suns, have lost their light.  
Here, in this silent cavern hung,  
The ready, swift, and tuneful tongue,  
If falsehood's honey is disavow'd,  
And where it could not praise, was chained,  
If hold in virtue's cause it spoke,  
Yet gentle words never broke;  
That tuneful tongue shall plead for thee  
When death unveils eternity.  
Avalis it whether bare, or shod,  
Those feet the path of duty trod;  
If from the bowers of joy they fell,  
To soothe affliction's humble bed;  
If grandeur's guilty bribe they spurn'd,  
And home to virtue's lap return'd;  
These feet with angels' wings shall vie,  
And tread the palace of the sky.

## FROM THE LONDON RECORD. EDUCATION IN EGYPT.

It will be in the recollection of our readers that a short time since we gave some extracts from the letters of a Miss Holiday, an English lady who was about to be introduced into the palace of Mehemet Ali, the celebrated Basha of Egypt, for the purpose of educating his children.

The following extracts from Miss H.'s journal and letters showing the success of her exertions for several months, will be found of singular interest.

Miss Holiday herself kept a respectable school for young ladies a distance from London, and was proceeding prosperously, but a journal of Hannah Kilham's falling into her hands, she determined to devote herself to Africa.

Coming to London she applied to the British and Foreign School Society, where she was educated, and ultimately engaged by the Ladies' Society for promoting education in the East. An introduction was procured for her from the agents of Mehemet Ali in this country, and she proceeded to Egypt.

It is probably to this energetic effort on the part of an unprotected female that Ali has been induced to send to this country a minister of public instruction. His excellency has been here several days visiting our public institutions, and on Thursday spent some time at the model infant school, Gray's-in-road.

CAIRO, MARCH 27, 1838.

"This day is among the most remarkable of my life: about 10 A. M. Mrs. Kruse, Mrs. Hekekyan, and myself, mounted on donkeys, set out for the harem. On our way we called for Capt. Lyons' janissary—Mr. Wahn the vice-consul, coming up at the time, said, 'You must take mine also for the honor of the dear old island.' This preceded by two janissaries in full dress, with their silver sticks of office, we went towards the Casa Debara, my heart in prayer to the Lord the whole time that he would make his way plain before me. With many fears we arrived at the gate of a long avenue, which is the great strong door of the harem; we next came to another strong gate, where the janissaries and donkey-men were ordered to remain, while we were waited on by several eunuchs, who took us through another strong gate, and so on until we were ushered into a long and stately saloon, where there were numerous ladies busily at work. We were then shown into an ante-room, and served with coffee, out of some of the most splendid cups, set with diamonds, I have ever beheld. Our attendants were young and beautiful slaves, evidently Greek, Georgian, and Circassian. One brought us coffee, another sherbet, and a third handed sugar, each waiter having numerous slaves to attend upon her below the dais; after this a splendid pipe with a massive amber mouth-piece, set with large diamonds, was offered to Mrs. Hekekyan, but refused, that lady conforming more to European than oriental usages. Two little girls were then brought in to us; they came up to me and lounged upon me with the greatest confidence, as if accustomed to such endearments; they were evidently some part of the royal family, from their likeness to the Pasha. In about a quarter of an hour an old lady, evidently high in office, came to conduct us to her highness. We followed her into another side apartment, where we were introduced to the princess. We found Nazly Hanum sitting on a high divan in the corner of the room. Mrs. Kruse and myself made our European salutation, but Mrs. Hekekyan had to prostrate herself at her feet, and to kiss the hem of her garments. She condescendingly moved her hand in salutation, and then smilingly told us to be seated on the divan nearest her. Nazly Hanum is a little woman, rather fat, apparently about forty years of age. Her countenance is striking in the extreme, particularly here eyes—indeed I never saw a more piercing eye in my life; she is said to be exceedingly like her father. Her dress was very simple, consisting of a black silk handkerchief round the head, secured at the side by a diamond pin, a shirt of white English net, which quite concealed the bosom, a robe of blue cloth, evidently English, and around her body was wrapped a splendid Cashmere shawl, from which hung suspended a magnificent watch and chain. She almost immediately inquired which was the teacher, and on my being pointed out to her, asked me several questions in Turkish, which Mrs. Hekekyan translated. By this time all my nervous fears had vanished. Her questions were pertinent and showed that she had the improvement of her household at heart; she wished me much to come and live in the house, saying that every liberty should be allowed me; I of course declined this offer, but thanked her for the honor intended. It was at last agreed that I should teach for the first few months four hours every day, i. e. from 9 o'clock A. M. to 1 P. M. I found that, owing to my very imperfect knowledge of the Turkish language (the Arabic not being spoken in the harem,) I could only devote myself to ornamental teaching at first, till time, patience, and application should open the door to a more useful labor. The princess was evidently pleased with me, for she seldom took her eyes off me for a second. She was smoking the whole time, while a crowd of ladies stood below the dais, watching her every movement. We took our departure from her highness about noon.

April 2.

"Early this morning I rose and prepared for entering upon my sphere of labor. I took with me all I thought would interest her highness, and set off, praying that the Lord would give me the strength needed in this strange mode of teaching. I passed the soldiers at the first gate, and one of the state eunuchs ushered me into the harem, where I found the princess engaged with her ladies in superintending the thorough cleaning of the grand saloon; she was standing on a small Turkish carpet, giving directions to the servants, who were all busily employed in obeying them. On seeing me enter she quitted her occupation, saying 'Ta hahe ge Chillee Seneora (Come O Lady! beckoning me to follow her into her private apartment. On entering, I stood at a respectful distance from her, but she insisted on my taking a seat near her; she then, in the name of God, the most merciful, the most high, &c. inquired after my health, and the usual morning salutations were given and returned. My boxes and bags being brought before her, more than a dozen ladies were called to inspect their contents. Everything was examined with the greatest attention. I had taken with me several nice books with pictures, in order to see, from her manner, which she would have preferred if I had had the power of teaching; I soon found that with one accord they wanted no books; these were therefore, dismissed. Nazly Hanum wished to begin some muslin work, which I instantly prepared, showing her how to execute it; she seemed much pleased with her labor, and readily did it with considerable neatness. In a short time I had more than a dozen of my royal pupils at work, some with lace work, others with fancy work, and a few with muslin. At a little after eleven o'clock her highness' dinner was brought in by about thirty slaves; a silver basin and jug, with a richly embroidered napkin, was given to me, while a young Circassian slave poured the water on my hands, a still more beautiful girl doing the same office for the princess. A small table, inlaid with pearl and silver, was placed before her, over which was thrown a cloth of velvet and gold; then came forward three slaves bearing a large silver tray, about four feet in diameter which was placed on the table. I was then called to take my seat near her, when a slave covered my lap with an embroidered napkin, and another gave me a French cambric handkerchief for my mouth. The table was completely filled with silver plates, salts, peppers, and within the pickle dishes of gold were glasses of deep-cut glass; my spoon, knife, and fork were of the same massive silver as the table and dishes, differing only from those of her highness in not having like hers, the handles set with precious stones. My plate was changed with every dish; more than fifty dishes succeeded each other on the table, indeed in such quick succession that there was barely time to taste many of them. I was, however, so pressed, by looks and signs, and nods, and winks, first to have this, then to have that, that I really felt at last afraid of seeing them. Although a knife and fork was by the princess, yet she preferred pulling the meat and fowls to pieces with her fingers (the usual way of eating in this country,) but there was nothing unclean in the way she did it, and it was performed with the greatest dexterity. As a mark of particular honor, she broke two or three hard-boiled eggs, and laid them on my plate, frequently placing on it also the choicest part of the dish before us. When she partook a second time of any dish, a little bell was rung. Towards the ante-room there were no fewer than three great silver trays, each filled with nine or ten dishes, and as one tray was emptied another took its place. Each tray was supported by three black slaves, richly dressed, who stood like three statues; at the foot of divan, on each side of the room (the divans range all round the room, except where the entrance is,) stood three young and beautiful girls, also splendidly dressed, with their eyes constantly fixed on their mistress, one holding a fly-chaser, another a censer, a third a cup with water, a fourth a basin and ewer, a fifth a towel worked with gold, and the sixth the little bell before mentioned. Dinner being finished, to my great relief, our hands were washed, her highness retired to sleep, and I returned to my children.

Alexandria, August 5, 1838.

"The last two months have been a time of much domestic and bodily suffering. I was confined to bed for several weeks.

"My attendance at the harem has been followed with the most cheering success. I was received and honored with every possible distinction, and continue to be welcomed by the royal party as if I were one of themselves. Since I have been at Rosetta, Mehemet Ali has sent me the kindest messages, saying to the governing officials that every possible care was to be taken of me, for that he (Mehemet Ali) was much interested in my recovery, as well as the rest of his family. Indeed, I may say that from the time I was taken ill his attention and kindness have been of the most marked character.

"I am to receive £10 a month for my attendance on the harem. I might have had three times as much had I wished, but this I thought was just, and therefore settled it so. My illness, humanly speaking, originated from my excessive exertion in the school, and at the harem, especially the latter, having during the hot months to pass through the desert part of the Nile to the Casa Debara, when the heat exceeded 114° of Fahr. The sand wind, also, with its clouds of dust, was too much for my strength, and the table of the harem added not a little to my illness. The dishes have often been too much for me; I have tried again and again to avoid them, but nothing would do with her highness but that the dish she most esteemed should be tasted by her teacher day after day."

## CASHMERE AND BLANKET SHAWLS.—

Opened to day—  
100 Green and Dab Grounds Cashmere Shawls,  
50 Large size Plaid Shawls,  
100 Black ground Cashmere Shawls.  
Dec. 1—21  
BRADLEY & CATLETT.

## THOMAS C. WILSON,

KEEPS at his Stable, near the corner of Third street, Penn. Avenue, Hacks for hire by the hour, day, week, or for any longer period. His terms are in strict compliance with the law of the Corporation, and his hack, driven by careful obliging drivers. A person will always be found at the stable to receive orders, and directions left will be cheerfully and promptly attended to. Families wishing to drive in the morning or evening can always be accommodated by making early application.  
T. C. Wilson has also for hire, a new horse New Jersey built buggy. The buggy is covered. Gentlemen wishing a first rate affair, are invited to call.  
Sept. 29—11.

## MARTIN WARE, CHINA, AND GLASS.—

JOHN MARSHALL, from Liverpool, (China,) and from other sources, a large assortment of the above articles, of the latest patterns and shapes, and exposed in a few days ten packages of India, French, and English China Dinner and Tea Sets, &c. which, with his former stock, makes his assortment extensive and complete. All of which will be sold wholesale and retail at the Alexandria and Northern prices.

He solicits a call from his friends and the Public generally, assuring them that nothing on his part shall be wanting to give satisfaction.

A good assortment of Common Ware, suitable for groceries, &c.

P. S.—First quality Stone-ware, at the factory prices. Pipes in boxes, Knives and Forks, Saucers, Water, Brackets, Wares, German Silver, &c. &c. of almost all descriptions, and Lamp Glasses and Glasses.  
Nov. 24—

## SPEECH OF MR. CLAY,

On the subject of Abolition Petitions.

IN SENATE, Thursday, February 7, 1839.

Mr. CLAY, of Kentucky, rose to present a petition, and said: I have received, Mr. President, a petition to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, which I wish to present to the Senate. It is signed by several hundred inhabitants of the District of Columbia, and chiefly of the city of Washington. Among them I recognise the name of the highly esteemed Mayor of the city, and other respectable names, some of which are personally and well known to me. They express their regret that the subject of the abolition of slavery within the District of Columbia continues to be pressed upon the consideration of Congress by inconsiderate and misguided individuals in other parts of the United States. They state that they do not desire the abolition of slavery within the District, even if Congress possess the very questionable power of abolishing it, without the consent of the people whose interests would be immediately and directly affected by the measure; that it is a question solely between the people of the District and their only constitutional Legislature, purely municipal, and one in which no exterior influence or interest can justly interfere; that, if at any future period the people of this District should desire the abolition of slavery within it, they will doubtless make their wishes known, when it will be time enough to take the matter into consideration; that they do not, on this occasion, present themselves to Congress because they are slave-holders—many of them are not—some of them are conscientiously opposed to slavery—but they appear because they justly respect the rights of those who own that description of property, and because they entertain a deep conviction that the continued agitation of the question by those who have no right to interfere with it, has an injurious influence on the peace and tranquillity of the community, and upon the well-being and happiness of those who are held in subjection; they finally protest as well against the unauthorized intervention of which they complain, as against any legislation on the part of Congress in compliance therewith. But, as I wish these respectable petitioners to be themselves heard, I request that their petition may be read. [It was read accordingly, and Mr. CLAY proceeded.] I am informed by the committee which requested me to offer this petition, and believe, that it expresses the almost unanimous sentiments of the people of the District of Columbia.

The performance of this service affords me, said Mr. C., a legitimate opportunity, of which, with the permission of the Senate, I mean now to avail myself, to say something, not only on the particular objects of the petition, but upon the great and interesting subject with which it is intimately associated.

It is well known to the Senate, said Mr. Clay, that I have thought that the most judicious course with abolition petitions has not been of late pursued by Congress. I have believed that it would have been wisest to have received and referred them, without opposition, and to have reported against their object in a calm and dispassionate and argumentative appeal to the good sense of the whole community. It has been supposed, however, by a majority of Congress, that it was most expedient either not to receive the petitions at all, or, if formally received, not to act definitively upon them. There is no substantial difference between these opposite opinions, since both look to an absolute rejection of the prayer of the petitioners. But there is a great difference in the form of proceeding; and, Mr. President, some experience in the conduct of human affairs has taught me to believe that a neglect to observe established forms is often attended with more mischievous consequences than the infliction of a positive injury. We all know that, even in private life, a violation of the existing usages and ceremonies of society cannot take place without serious prejudice. I fear, sir, that the abolitionists have acquired a considerable apparent force by blending with the object which they have in view a collateral and totally different question, arising out of an alleged violation of the right of petition. I know full well, and take great pleasure in testifying, that nothing was remoter from the intention of the majority of the Senate, from which I differed, than to violate the right of petition in any case in which, according to its judgment, that right could be constitutionally exercised, or where the object of the petition could be safely or properly granted. Still, it must be owned that the abolitionists have seized hold of the fact of the treatment which their petitions have received in Congress, and made injurious impressions upon the minds of a large portion of the community. This, I think, might have been avoided by the course which I should have been glad to have seen pursued.

And I desire now, Mr. President, to advert to some of those topics which I think might have been usefully embodied in a report by a committee of the Senate, and which, I am persuaded, would have checked the progress, if it had not altogether arrested the efforts, of abolition. I am sensible, sir, that this work would have been accomplished with much greater ability and with much happier effect, under the auspices of a committee, than it can be by me. But, anxious as I always am to contribute whatever is in my power to the harmony, concord and happiness of this great people, I feel myself irresistibly impelled to do whatever is in my power, incompetent as I feel myself to be, to dissuade the public from continuing to agitate a subject fraught with the most direful consequences.

There are three classes of persons opposed, or apparently opposed, to the continued existence of slavery in the United States. The first are those who, from sentiments of philanthropy and humanity, are conscientiously opposed to the existence of slavery, but who are no less opposed, at the same time, to any disturbance of the peace and tranquillity of the Union, or the infringement of the powers of the States composing the Confederacy. In this class may be comprehended that peaceful and exemplary society of "Friends," one of whose established maxims is, an abhorrence of war in all its forms, and the cultivation of peace and good-will amongst mankind. The next class consists of apparent abolitionists—that is, those who, having been persuaded that the right of petition has been violated by Congress, co-operate with the abolitionists for the sole purpose of asserting and vindicating that right. And the third class are the real ultra-abolitionists, who are resolved to persevere in the pursuit of their object at all hazards, and without regard to any consequences, however calamitous they may be. With them, the rights of property are nothing; the deficiency of the powers of the General Government is nothing; the acknowledged and incontestable powers of the States are nothing; civil war, a dissolution of the Union, and the overthrow of a government in which are concentrated the fondest hopes of the civilized world, are nothing. A single idea has taken possession of their minds, and onward they pursue it, overlooking all barriers, reckless and regardless of all consequences. With this class, the immediate abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, and in the Territory of Florida, the prohibition of the removal of slaves from State to State, and the refusal to admit any new State, comprising within its limits the institution of domestic slavery, are but so many means conducing to the accomplishment of the ultimate but perilous end at which they avowedly and boldly aim; are but so many short stages in the long and bloody road to the distant goal at which they would finally arrive. Their purpose is abolition, universal abolition, peaceably if it can, forcibly if it must. Their object is no longer concealed by the thinnest veil; it is avowed and proclaimed. Utterly destitute of constitutional or other rightful power, living in totally distinct communities, as alien to the communities in which the subject upon which they would operate resides, so far as concerns political power over that subject, as if they lived in Africa or Asia, they nevertheless promulgate to the world their purpose to be to manumit forthwith, and without compensation, and without moral preparation, three millions of negro slaves, under jurisdictions altogether separated from those under which they live. I have said that immediate abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia and in the Territory of Florida, and the exclusion of new States, were only means towards the attainment of a much more important end. Unfortunately, they are not the only means. Another, and much more lamentable one, is that which this class is endeavoring to employ, of arraying one portion against another portion of the Union.

With that view, in all their leading prints and publications, the alleged horrors of slavery are depicted in the most glowing and exaggerated colors, to excite the imaginations and stimulate the rage of the people in the free States against the people in the slave States. The slaveholder is held up and represented as the most atrocious of human beings. Advertisements of fugitive slaves and of slaves to be sold are carefully collected and blazoned forth, to infuse a spirit of detestation and hatred against one entire and the largest section of the Union. And like a notorious agitator upon another theatre, they would hunt down and proscribe from the pale of civilized society the inhabitants of that entire section. Allow me, Mr. President, to say, that whilst I recognise in the justly wounded feelings of the Minister of the United States at the Court of St. James much to excuse the notice which he was provoked to take of that agitator, in my humble opinion, he would better have consulted the dignity of his station and of his country in treating him with contemptuous silence. He would exclude us from European society—he who himself can only obtain a contraband admission, and is received with scornful repugnance into it! If he be no more desirous of our society than we are of his, he may rest assured that a state of eternal non-intercourse will exist between us. Yes, sir, I think the American Minister would have best pursued the dictates of true dignity by regarding the language of the member of the British House of Commons as the malignant ravings of the plunderer of his own country, and the libeller of a foreign and kindred people.

But the means to which I have already adverted are not the only ones which this third class of ultra-abolitionists are employing to effect their ultimate end. They began their operations by professing to employ only per-

suasive means in appealing to the humanity, and enlightening the understandings, of the slaveholding portion of the Union. If there was some kindness in this avowed motive, it must be acknowledged that there was rather a presumptuous display also of an assumed superiority in intelligence and knowledge. For some time, they continued to make these appeals to our duty and our interest; but, impatient with the slow influence of their logic upon our stupid minds, they recently resolved to change their system of action. To the agency of their powers of persuasion, they now propose to substitute the powers of the ballot box; and he must be blind to what is passing before us, who does not perceive that the inevitable tendency of their proceedings is, if these still should be found insufficient, to invoke, finally, the more potent powers of the bayonet.

Mr. President, it is at this a alarming stage of the proceedings of the ultra-abolitionists that I would seriously invite every considerate man in the country solemnly to pause, and deliberately to reflect, not merely on our existing posture, but upon that dreadful precipice down which they would hurry us. It is because these ultra-abolitionists have ceased to employ the instruments of reason and persuasion, have made the iracund political, and have appealed to the ballot box, that I am induced, upon this occasion, to address you.

There have been three epochs in the history of our country at which the spirit of abolition displayed itself. The first was immediately after the formation of the present Federal Government. When the Constitution was about going into operation, its powers were not well understood by the community at large, and remained to be accurately interpreted and defined. At that period, numerous abolition societies were formed, comprising not merely the Society of Friends, but many other good men. Petitions were presented to Congress, praying for the abolition of slavery. They were received without serious opposition, referred, and reported upon by a committee. The report stated that the General Government had no power to abolish slavery as it existed in the several States, and that these States themselves had exclusive jurisdiction over the subject. The report was generally a "quiescent" in, and satisfaction and tranquillity ensued: the abolition societies thereafter limiting their exertions, in respect to the black population, to offices of humanity within the scope of existing laws.

The next period when the subject of slavery, and abolition incidentally, was brought into notice and discussion, was that on the memorable occasion of the admission of the State of Missouri into the Union. The struggle was long, strenuous and fearful. It is too recent to make it necessary to do more than merely advert to it, and to say, that it was finally composed by one of those compromises characteristic of our institutions, and of which the Constitution itself is the most signal instance.

The third is that in which we now find ourselves. Various causes, Mr. President, have contributed to produce the existing excitement on the subject of abolition. The principal one, perhaps, is the example of British emancipation of the slaves in the islands adjacent to our country. Such is the similarity in laws, in language, in institutions, and in common origin, between Great Britain and the United States, that no great measure of national policy can be adopted in the one country without producing a considerable degree of influence in the other. Confounding the totally different cases together, of the powers of the British Parliament and those of the Congress of the United States, and the totally different situations of the British West India Islands, and the slaves in the sovereign and independent States of this Confederacy, superficial men have inferred from the undecided British experiment the practicability of the abolition of slavery in these States. The powers of the British Parliament are unlimited, and are often described to be omnipotent. The powers of the American Congress, on the contrary, are few, cautiously limited, scrupulously excluding all that are not granted, and, above all, carefully and absolutely excluding all power over the existence or continuance of slavery in the several States. The slaves, too, upon which British legislation operated, were not in the bosom of the kingdom, but in remote and feeble colonies, having no voice in Parliament. The West India slaveholder was neither represented nor representative in that Parliament. And whilst I most fervently wish complete success to the British experiment of West India emancipation, I confess that I have fearful forebodings of a disastrous termination of it. Whatever it may be, I think it must be admitted that, if the British Parliament treated the West India slaves as freemen, it also treated the West India freemen as slaves. If, instead of these slaves being separated by a wide ocean from the parent country, three or four millions of African negro slaves had been dispersed over England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland, and their owners had been members of the British Parliament, a case which would have presented some analogy to that of our own country—does any one believe that it would have been expedient or practicable to have emancipated them, leaving them to remain, with all their embittered feelings, in the United Kingdom, boundless as the powers of the British Parliament are?

Other causes have conspired with the British example to produce the existing excitement from abolition. I say it with profound regret, but with no intention to occasion irritation here or elsewhere, that there are persons in both parts of the Union who have sought to mingle abolition with politics, and to array one portion of the Union against the other. It is the misfortune in free countries that, in high party times, a disposition too often prevails to seize hold of every thing which can strengthen the one side or weaken the other. Charges of fostering abolition designs have been heedlessly and unjustly made by one party against the other. Prior to the late election of the present President of the United States, he was charged with being an abolitionist, and abolition designs were imputed to many of his supporters. Much as I was opposed to his election, and am to his Administration, I neither shared in making nor believing the truth of the charge. He was scarcely installed in office before the same charge was directed against those who opposed his election.

Mr. President, it is not true, and I rejoice that it is not true, that either of the two great parties in this country has any designs or aim at abolition. I should deeply lament if it were true. I should consider, if it were true, that the danger to the stability of our system would be infinitely greater than any which does, I hope, actually exist. Whilst neither party can be, I think, justly accused of any abolition tendency or purpose, both have profited, and both have been injured, in particular localities, by the accession or abstraction of abolition support. If the account were fairly stated, I believe the party to which I am opposed has profited much more, and been injured much less, than that to which I belong. But I am far, for that reason, from being disposed to accuse our adversaries of being abolitionists.

And now, Mr. President, allow me to consider the several cases in which the authority of Congress is invoked by these abolition petitioners upon the subject of domestic slavery. The first relates to it as it exists in the District of Columbia. The following is the provision of the Constitution of the United States in reference to that matter:

"To exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever over such District (not exceeding ten miles square) as may by cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of Government of the United States."

This provision preceded, in point of time, the actual cessions which were made by the States of Maryland and Virginia. The object of the cession was to establish a seat of Government of the United States; and the grant in the Constitution of exclusive legislation must be understood, and should be always interpreted, as having relation to the object of the cession. It was with a full knowledge of this clause in the Constitution that those two States ceded to the General Government the ten miles square, constituting the District of Columbia. In making the cession, they supposed that it was to be applied, and applied solely, to the purposes of a seat of Government, for which it was asked. When it was made, slavery existed in both those Commonwealths, and in the ceded territory, as it now continues to exist in all of them. Neither Maryland nor Virginia could have anticipated that, whilst the institution remained within their respective limits, its abolition would be attempted by Congress without their consent. Neither of them would probably have made an unconditional cession, of they could have anticipated such a result.

From the nature of the provision in the Constitution, and the avowed object of the acquisition of the territory, two duties arise on the part of Congress. The first is, to render the District available, comfortable, and convenient, as a seat of Government of the whole Union; the other is, to govern the people within the District so as best to promote their happiness and prosperity. These objects are totally distinct in their nature, and, in interpreting and exercising the grant of the power of exclusive legislation, that distinction should be constantly borne in mind. It is necessary, in order to render this place a comfortable seat of the General Government, to abolish slavery within its limits? No one can or will advance such a proposition. The Government has remained here near forty years without the slightest inconvenience from the presence of domestic slavery. Is it necessary to the well-being of the people of the District that slavery should be abolished from amongst them? They not only neither ask nor desire, but are almost unanimously opposed to it. It exists here in the mildest and most mitigated form. In a population of 39,824, there were, at the last enumeration of the population of the United States, but 6,119 slaves. The number has not probably much increased since. They are dispersed over the ten miles square, engaged in the quiet pursuits of husbandry, or in menial offices in domestic life. If it were necessary to the efficiency of this place as a seat of the General Government to abolish slavery, which is utterly denied, the abolition should be confined to the necessity which prompts it, that is, to the limits of the city of Washington itself. Beyond those limits, persons concerned in the Government of the United States have no more to do with the inhabitants of the District than they have with the inhabitants of the adjacent counties of Maryland and Virginia which lie beyond the District.

(Continued on the second page of this paper.)